

I have come back more convinced than ever of the importance of these personal meetings with national leaders. The more we know each other, the more likely we are to find amicable solutions of our differences; to understand the viewpoints and problems of others; and to appreciate the basic goodness and goodwill in the hearts of human beings. This is something that can never be communicated through third parties, or by correspondence or diplomatic exchanges.

In essence, I am able to say to you, my fellow Canadians, that there is real hope for the maintenance of the peace in spite of the great problems that still confront us, because there is among most of the leaders of the nations, a determination to confine and confound the schemes and ambitions of those who would destroy that peace. There is a high resolve among the free nations to work together constructively and positively, as never before in history, to maintain a strong and united front as an effective deterrent to aggression.

There is another vital reason for the importance of these talks with world leaders. The normal diplomatic channels are still of the utmost importance, but there are times when direct communication between those in high authority, often by long distance telephone, becomes desirable and indeed essential. I need only mention the fact that there is a world of difference between speaking to someone, under such circumstances, whom you have never met, and the kind of frankness and understanding that is possible with one whom you know personally.

I can think of no one whose personal friendship and understanding has meant more to me in the regard than the Rt. Hon. Harold Macmillan, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. In London we resumed those very important discussions which have been going on for some time, on many levels of government, about the trade and other relationships of our two countries. I need remind no Canadian of the importance of those traditional markets for our goods and services, because they have, from the earliest days, been the backbone of our development and prosperity. It is here, and in the related Commonwealth countries of the British trading orbit, that we must expand our mutual trade, if our Canadian economy is to have that level of earning from overseas trade which is necessary to offset our excess of imports over exports in our trade with the United States.

I am glad to report that there are excellent prospects for further expansion in Canada's trade with Britain in the immediate future. One of the major contributing factors has been the success of the Trade and Economic Conference held in Montreal. The spirit of mutual self-help engendered there is still very much alive in Britain and in many other Commonwealth countries.

We crossed from the Old Land to France, where, for the first time, I met General De Gaulle. France has passed through a time of crisis in the evolution of her Parliamentary institutions. I shall not comment on the prospects of the new Fifth